

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system for automatically inputting grades into an electronic
5 gradebook, comprising:
 - a) a grading label comprising a data field containing data, wherein said data includes grade information and student identification information, wherein said grading label comprises:
 - 10 i) an identification number input area, wherein said identification number input area is selected from a group consisting of a set of input bubbles and a set of boxed regions for hand-written indicia and
 - 15 ii) a grade input area, wherein said grade input area is selected from a group consisting of a set of input bubbles and a set of boxed regions for hand-written indicia and
 - b) means for imaging said data field and transferring data from said data field to an electronic gradebook.
2. A system as recited in Claim 1, wherein said data field comprises a
20 data rectangle.
3. A system as recited in Claim 1, wherein said data field resides on a document.

4. A system as recited in Claim 1, wherein said means comprises:

a) a digital camera;

b) a microprocessor connected to said digital camera; and

c) programming associated with said microprocessor for carrying out the

5 operations of:

i) obtaining an image of said data field,

ii) processing said data, and

iii) transferring said processed data to said electronic
gradebook.

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5. A system for automatically grading and inputting grades into an
electronic gradebook, comprising:

a) a data field containing student identification information and grade
information, wherein said grade information is selected from a group
15 consisting of score information and answer information; and

b) means for imaging said data field and establishing and transferring a grade
from said grade information and associated student identification
information data from said data field to an electronic gradebook.

20 6. A system as recited in Claim 5, wherein said data field comprises a
data rectangle.

7. A system as recited in Claim 5, wherein said data field resides on a
document.

8. A system as recited in Claim 5, wherein said means comprises:
- a) a digital camera;
 - b) a microprocessor connected to said digital camera; and
 - 5 c) programming associated with said microprocessor for carrying out the operations of:
 - i) obtaining an image of said data field;
 - ii) processing said data to establish said grade and associated student identification information data;
 - 10 iii) and transferring said processed data to said electronic gradebook.
9. A system as recited in Claim 5, wherein said data field comprises a grading label.
- 15 10. A system as recited in Claim 5, wherein said grading label comprises:
- a) an identification number input area, wherein said identification number input area is selected from a group consisting of a set of input bubbles and a set of boxed regions for hand-written indicia; and
 - 20 b) a grade information input area, wherein said grade information input area is selected from a group consisting of a set of input bubbles and a set of boxed regions for hand-written indicia.
11. A system as recited in Claim 10, wherein the identification number

input area comprises said set of input bubbles, wherein said set of input bubbles comprises:

- a) a first row of numbered input bubbles;
- b) a second row of numbered input bubbles; and
- c) a third row of numbered input bubbles.

12. A system as recited in Claim 11, wherein each row of numbered input bubbles comprises ten input bubbles, the input bubbles being individually and non-repeatingly numbered from zero to nine.

13. A system as recited in Claim 10, wherein the identification number input area comprises said set of boxed regions for hand-written indicia, wherein said set of boxed regions comprises one or more boxed regions.

14. A system as recited in Claim 10, wherein said grade information input area comprises a series of lettered input bubbles.

15. A system as recited in Claim 14, wherein said series of lettered input bubbles contain score information.

16. A system as recited in Claim 14, wherein said series of lettered input bubbles contain answer information.

17. A system as recited in Claim 10, wherein said grade information input

area comprises a series of boxed regions for hand-written indicia.

18. A system as recited in Claim 17, wherein said series of boxed regions contain score information.

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19. A system as recited in Claim 17, wherein said series of lettered input bubbles contain answer information.

20. An apparatus for automatically grading and inputting grades into an electronic gradebook, comprising:

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- a) a digital camera;
- b) a microprocessor connected to said digital camera; and
- c) programming associated with said microprocessor for carrying out the operations of:

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- i) obtaining an image of a data field;
- ii) processing data in said data field; and
- iii) transferring said processed data to said electronic gradebook.

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21. An apparatus as recited in Claim 20, wherein said data field comprises a data rectangle.

22. An apparatus as recited in Claim 20, wherein said data field resides on a document.

23. An apparatus as recited in Claim 20, wherein the data from said data field includes grade information and student identification information.

5 24. An apparatus as recited in Claim 20, wherein said data field comprises a grading label.

25. An apparatus as recited in Claim 24, wherein said grading label comprises:

- 10 a) an identification number input area, wherein said identification number input area is selected from a group consisting of a set of input bubbles and a set of boxed regions for hand-written indicia; and
- 15 b) a grade information input area, wherein said grade information input area is selected from a group consisting of a set of input bubbles and a set of boxed regions for hand-written indicia.

26. An apparatus as recited in Claim 25, wherein the identification number input area comprises said set of input bubbles, wherein said set of input bubbles

20 comprises:

- a) a first row of numbered input bubbles;
- b) a second row of numbered input bubbles; and
- c) a third row of numbered input bubbles.

27. A system as recited in Claim 26, wherein each row of numbered input bubbles comprises ten input bubbles, the input bubbles being individually and non-repeatingly numbered from zero to nine.

5 28. A system as recited in Claim 25, wherein the identification number input area comprises said set of boxed regions for hand-written indicia, wherein said set of boxed regions comprises one or more boxed regions.

29. A system as recited in Claim 25, wherein said grade information input
10 area comprises a series of lettered input bubbles.

30. A system as recited in Claim 29, wherein said series of lettered input bubbles contain score information.

15 31. A system as recited in Claim 29, wherein said series of lettered input bubbles contain answer information.

32. A system as recited in Claim 25, wherein said grade information input
area comprises a series of boxed regions for hand-written indicia.

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33. A system as recited in Claim 32, wherein said series of boxed regions contain score information.

34. A system as recited in Claim 32, wherein said series of boxed regions

contain answer information.

35. A method for automatically grading and inputting data from a data rectangle to an electronic gradebook, comprising:

- 5 a) reading an image of a document having a data rectangle;
- b) finding the data rectangle; and
- c) inputting identification information and grade information from the data rectangle to the electronic gradebook.

10 36. A method as recited in Claim 35, further comprising calculating a grade from said grade information and inputting said grade to the electronic gradebook.

37. A grading label, comprising:

- 15 a) an identification number input area, wherein said identification number input area is selected from a group consisting of a set of input bubbles and a set of boxed regions for hand-written indicia; and
- b) a grade information input area, wherein said grade information input area is selected from a group consisting of a set of input bubbles and a set of boxed regions for hand-written indicia.

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